Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/28/2024 6:34:55 PM First name: john Last name: westenberg Organization: Title: Comments: Thanks for opportunity to comment!

My comments regard several specific locations on the Lolo that I am particularly familiar with, and have visited countless times over the past 50 years; The Great Burn, Ward Eagle, and Cube Iron-Silcox. I strongly urge you to manage these areas for their wilderness values.

Currently, I am particularly concerned about proposed bike use of the Stateline trail in the Great Burn, and on the trails comprising the Heart Lake loop. These trails are not appropriate for bike use. Bike use is inconsistent with trail designs and tread. Bike use is inconsistent with the wilderness values of the Great Burn (note my earlier comment). Finally, in recent years, the Mountain Goat population in the area appears to have surged. I have had several goat encounters on these trails. these were manageable in part because I was on foot. Fast moving bike/goat incidents are almost inevitable if bikes are allowed on these trails.

I would also like to urge you to devote more time and resources to invasive plants in bqckcountry areas, particularly in the Lost Creek/Lake drainage of the Stateline area. Invasives, (particularly St Johnswort) are taking over the numerous once pristine meadows in that drainage. I brought this issue to the attention of the Superior Ranger District several years ago, while the infestation was controllable. The reaction both verbally, and as my last visit to the area confirmed, factually, was indifference. Please do better.